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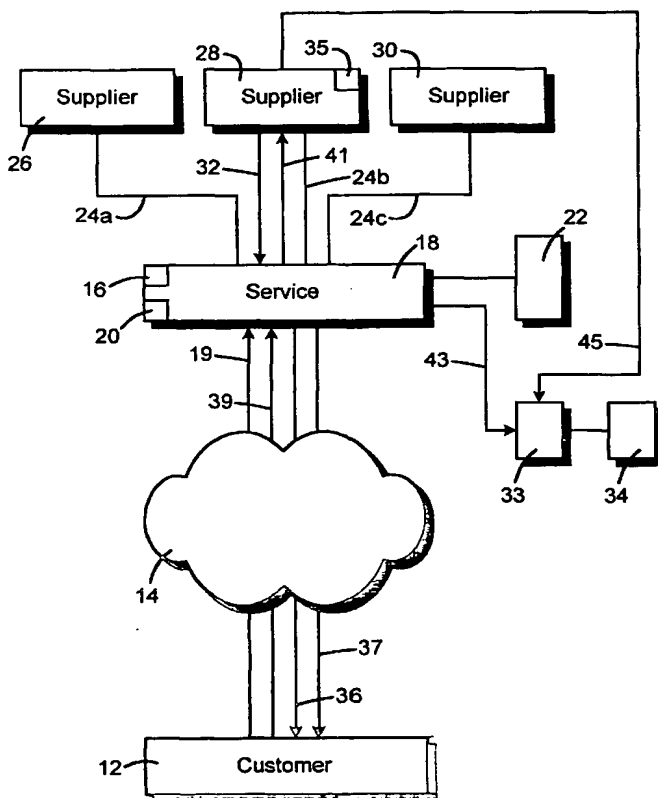
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF OBTAINING MUSIC SCORES



(57) Abstract: The method is for using the Internet to facilitate a transaction between a customer and at least one supplier of music scores to discourage illegal copying of music scores. The customer contacts a website (16) of the service unit (18) and sends a request signal (19) to the website (16) to obtain a music score (20). The service unit (18) digitally searches for the music score (20) in a database (22). When no copy is available, request signals (24a-c) are sent to the suppliers (26, 28, 30). If a copy is available, the supplier sends an affirmation signal and the digital copy (35) of the music score to the service unit (18). The service unit (18) can also make transpositions according to the requirement of the customer (12). The service unit (18) can also make transpositions according to the requirements of the customer (12) that pays and then forwards the digital copy. The service unit 18 then compensates the supplier (28) minus a service charge.

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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

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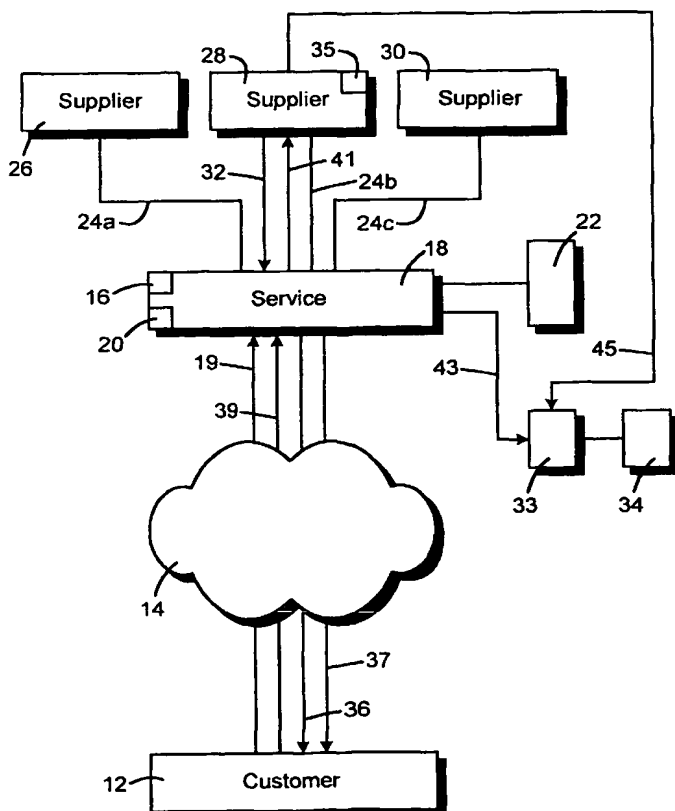
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- *with amended claims*

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**AMENDED CLAIMS**

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original claim 1 amended; remaining claims unchanged (3 pages)]

1. A method for using the Internet to facilitate a transaction between a customer and at least one supplier of music scores to discourage illegal copying of music scores, comprising:
- 5 associating suppliers (26, 28, 30) of music scores with a music score service unit (18);
- a customer (12) contacting a website (16) of the service unit (18) and sending a request signal (19) to the website (16) to
- 10 obtain a music score (20);
- the service unit (18) receiving the signal (19) and the service unit (18) digitally searching for the music score (20) in a database (22) to determine whether the music score (20) is available in the database (22);
- 15 when no copy of the music score (20) being available in the database (22), the unit (18) sending request signals (24a-c) to the suppliers (26, 28, 30);
- the suppliers (26, 28, 30) sending back an affirmation signal (32) to the service unit (18) when a digital copy (35) of the
- 20 music score (20) is available from the suppliers;
- the service unit (18) receiving the affirmation signal (32);
- the service unit (18) sending a delivery request signal (41) to the supplier (28);
- the supplier (28) sending the digital copy (35) of the music
- 25 score (20) to the service unit (18); and
- the service unit (18) receiving the digital copy (35) of the music score (20) and sending a delivery signal (36) to the

customer including the digital copy (35) of the music score (20).

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method  
5 further comprises the service unit (18) sending the digital copy (35) to the customer (12) when the digital copy (35) is available in the database (22).

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method  
10 further comprises the customer (12) pre-paying for the digital copy (35).

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method  
further comprises the service unit (18) compensating the  
15 supplier (28) with the payment amount received from the customer (12) minus a service charge.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method  
further comprises the service unit (18) charging the customer  
20 (12) a reduced fee or no fee at all when the digital copy (35) is not delivered within a promised time period.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method  
further comprises the service unit (18) providing  
25 transposition services to the customer (12).

7. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method

further comprises the supplier (28) sending a royalty payment to a copyright control function (33) associated with a copyright owner (34).

- 5      8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the service unit (18) sending a charge signal (37) to the customer (12) to request payment of the digital copy (35) and the customer (12) sending a payment signal (39) to the service unit (18).

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/09142

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60

US CL : 705/26

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 705/26,27

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
Please See Continuation Sheet

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,889,860 A (ELLER et al.) 30 March 1999 (30.03.1999), entire document.	1-9
Y	US 5,734,719 A (TSEVDOS et al.) 31 March 1998 (31.03.1998), column 11, lines 50-56.	1-9
Y	US 5,773,741 A (ELLER et al.) 30 June 1998 (30.06.1998), column 6, lines 32-46.	6
A	"Musicnotes.com web site revolutionizes distribution and delivery of sheet music", Press Release, 13 July 1999, [archived at <a href="http://web.archive.org/web/20010417062718/www.musicnotes.com/press/PR071399.asp">http://web.archive.org/web/20010417062718/www.musicnotes.com/press/PR071399.asp</a> ] [printed 31 May 2003], entire document.	1-9

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"B" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

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later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

PCT/US03

**Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:**

EAST: sheet adj music, score, digital adj rights, download, rights or copyright or royalty or license, local adj (database or server), available or availability, alternative adj sources, supplier or vendor, scoresnow, sunhawk, music, delivered with time, reduced near3 price